

In a self-serving move remarkably similar to that of Sinclair Broadcasting Group, Pappas Telecasting Companies is abusing its privilege of using the public's airwaves at no cost by "donating" airtime worth \$325,000 to Republican candidates just in advance of the November 2 election. Instead of serving the public interest as it is obliged to do by law, it is providing a free in-kind political donation to Republican candidates, yet offering nothing more than paid time to those running in opposition.

Moreover, this action presents a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Control of the airwaves by large media conglomerates results in an excessive focus on the bottom line at the expense of substantive localized news content and the public's overall best interests, and certainly providing one side a louder voice than the other does not serve the cause of localism.

Pappas Telecasting Companies' free use of public airwaves obliges it to serve the public interest, yet its legally dubious behavior demonstrates the necessity of strengthening rather than weakening media ownership rules. Please ensure that in the future the license renewal process is more than simply perfunctory. Thank you for your consideration.